

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 04478 242309Z

11

ACTION ARA-10

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R 242240Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3709

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4478

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT PINOCHET TAKES BLUNT, TOUGH, AND THREATENING LINE TOWARDS GOC-PERCEIVED INCREASE IN "POLITICAL" ACTIVITY, WITH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (PDC) CLEARLY THE TARGET. DURING PAST WEEK PINOCHET HAS REITERATED THAT THERE WILL BE NO ELECTIONS: SAID THAT A MIXED MILITARY-CIVILIAN POLITICIAN GOVERNMENT IS UNACCEPTABLE; WARNED POLITICIANS AGAINST FORMING A COMMON FRONT; WARNED AGAINST ATTEMPTING TO DRIVE A WEDGE IN MILITARY UNITY; AND THREATENED TO DISOLVE PARTIES NOW IN "RECESS" IF THEY CONTINUE POLITICAL ACTIVITY. CURRENT CAMPAIGN, WITH PINOCHET THE LEADING SPOKESMAN, IS APPARENTLY GOC RESPONSE TO INCREASED PDC ACTIVITY, RECENT FREI INTERVIEW BEING THE CATALYST. PINOCHET APPEARS TO BE SENDINGPDC A CLEAR SIGNAL TO RESPECT RECESS OR SUFFER CONSEQUENCES. END SUMMARY.

2. PINOCHET BEGAN CURRENT PUBLIC ATTACK AGAINST POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN WARNING 10 DAYS AGO TO AUDIENCE OF REGIONAL OFFICIALS TO FORGET ABOUT POLITICS AND ELECTIONS. SAID THAT "THOSE WHO DO NOT UNDERSTAND THIS EITHER DON'T HAVE ENOUGH GUTS OR ARE WORKING AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT". PINOCHET LEFT NO DOUBT THAT HE, AT LEAST, DOES NOT SEE ELECTIONS IN CHILE DURING FORESEEABLE FUTURE, NOTING THAT HE WOULD DIE AS WOULD SUCCESSOR, "BUT THERE WILL BE NO ELECTIONS".

3. AGAIN IN THE PROVINCES LAST WEEKEND, PINOCHET MADE ONE OF TOUGHEST PUBLIC STATEMENTS AGAINST POLITICAL PARTIES

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTIA 04478 242309Z

THAT WE CAN RECALL: PARTIES IN RECESS WILL BE ABOLISHED

IF POLITICIANS CONTINUE TO MEET IN DEFIANCE OF RECESS.
PINOCHET SAID THAT IT WOULD NOT BE THE GOC THAT TAKES STEPS
TO DISSOLVE THE PARTIES, BUT RATHER THE PEOPLE, "WHO
REPUDIATE THEM" BECAUSE PARTIES ARE TO BLAME FOR THE
CURRENT CRISIS. THEY HAD THEIR CHANCE, AND THEY BOTCHED IT.
MESSAGE WAS CLEAR THAT CONTINUED POLITICKING WILL BE A RISKY
VENTURE, WITH GOC NOT JUST STANDING BY.

4. PINOCHET JUNE 23 SLAMMED THE DOOR ON PDC CURRENT POLICY
LINE DIRECTED TOWARD EVENTUAL MIXED GOVERNMENT, WITH MILITARY
AND CIVILIAN POLITICIANS PARTICIPATING. SAID THAT THIS WOULD
BE "ROTTEN SYSTEM (PODRIDO) AND DOES NOT INTEREST US."

5. RECENT STATEMENTS ALSO WARNED POLITICIANS AGAINST
ATTEMPTING TO CREATE A WEDGE WITHIN MILITARY RANKS, AND
AGAINST ATTEMPTING TO FORM A UNITED FRONT AGAINST THE
GOVERNMENT.

6. COMMENT: PRESIDENT DID NOT MENTION PDC, BUT ONLY
THEY COULD HAVE BEEN HIS TARGET. PDC AND GOC HAVE BEEN
IN AN UNEASY STATE OF TRACE SINCE CELEBRATED FUENTEALBA
EXPULSION LAST NOVEMBER, NEITHER WANTING A CONFRONTATION
BUT WITH PDC ESTABLISHING ITS POLICY LINE AND TESTING THE
LIMITS OF GOC RESTRICTIONS. GOC LEADERS APPEAR IRRITATED
AND EDGY OVER ESCALATING CRITICISM OF GOVT. ECONOMIC
POLICY, WHICH EX-PRESIDENT FREI LAST MONTH USED AS A
VEHICLE TO MAKE SOME POLITICAL POINTS (SANTIAGO 3613).
FREI INTERVIEW AND ITS AFTERMATH PRESUMABLY WAS THE
CATALYST FOR CURRENT GOC ATTACK.

7. WHEREAS JUNTA MEMBER LEIGH HAD RECENTLY ASSUMED ROLE
OF DELIVERING HARD LINE GOC STATEMENTS, PINOCHET HAS TAKEN
OVER CURRENT GOC ATTACK WITH UNUSUALLY PITHY, HARSH, BARN-
STORMING LANGUAGE. ACTING LIKE A POLITICIAN HIMSELF, HE
SEEMS TO BE TAUNTING PDC, WHO, HOWEVER, HAVE NO RIGHT OF
REPLY.

8. PINOCHET'S REMARKS AGAIN INDICATE GOC MILITARY UNWILLING
TO SHARE POWER WITH TRADITIONAL POLITICIANS. THEY CONDEMN
CRITICISM AS UNPATRIOTIC AND DANGEROUS TO THE COUNTRY,
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PAGE 03 SANTIAGO 04478 242309Z

PARTICULARLY IN MOMENT OF ECONOMIC STRESS. THERE IS NO
HINT OF RECONCILIATION. PINOCHET IN EFFECT WARNS THAT
PDC WILL BE ABOLISHED UNLESS IT TAKES THE RECESS TO HEART.
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